

Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 110945Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 737

S E C R E T CAIRO 10042

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS BRUSSELS FOR SECRETARY
AND AMBASSADOR EILTS

DEPT PASS INFO IMMEDIATE TO: SECDEF ISA WASHDC
AND CNO WASHDC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MILI EG US

SUBJ: GOE REQUEST TO CANCEL USS BOULDER VISIT
TO PORT SUEZ

1. I RECEIVED, DECEMBER 11, MESSAGE FROM RADM CARROLL,
CTF-65, WHICH WAS SENT TO COMSIXTHFLT AND REPEATED
ONLY TO CINCUSNAVEUR AND MYSELF, REPORTING REQUEST
FROM SUEZ AUTHORITY CHAIRMAN MASHHOUR THAT
USS BOULDER NOT PROCEED TO PORT SUEZ AS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED
PRIOR TO HER FINAL DEPARTURE FROM SUEZ CANAL. RADM
CARROLL HAD TELEPHONED ME PRIOR TO SENDING MESSAGE TO ASK
FOR AMBASSADOR'S CONCURRENCE IN THIS CHANGE OF BOULDER
ITINERARY. IN AMBASSADOR'S ABSENCE I CONCURRED THAT
MASHHOUR'S REQUEST SHOULD BE HONORED.

2. MASHHOUR HAD EXPLAINED HIS REQUEST BY SAYING THAT
BOULDER VISIT TO PORT SUEZ, NO MATTER HOW CLOSELY HELD FROM
PRESS, WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS SIGNAL THAT USG SATISFIED
CANAL WAS READY FOR SAFE TRANSIT. MASHHOUR STATED THAT,
IN FACT, IT WOULD NOT BE UNTIL EARLY APRIL BEFORE NAVIGATION
SYSTEM, SIGNAL TOWERS, COMMUNICATIONS, BANK REPAIRS,

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ETC. ARE COMPLETED. MOREOVER, CANAL WOULD PROBABLY NOT

BE OPENED, ACCORDING MASHHOUR, UNTIL POLITICAL
CONSIDERATIONS WERE RESOLVED AND THIS WOULD PROBABLY
NOT BE UNTIL AT LEAST MID-YEAR.

3. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT GENERAL GOE POLITICAL UNEASINESS,
WHICH WAS HEIGHTENED BY RECENT ALLON PUBLIC STATEMENT
ABOUT AN EGYPTIAN COMMITMENT REGARDING PASSAGE OF
ISRAELI CARGOES AND EVENTUALLY ISRAELI SHIPS THROUGH SUEZ
CANAL, IS BEHIND MASHHOUR'S REQUEST. UNDER PRESENT
POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES, I COULD SEE NO REASON OR JUSTIFICATION
FOR ANY US INSISTENCE ON MAINTAINING SCHEDULED
BOULDER VISIT TO PORT SUEZ AND THEREFORE CONCURRED WITH
RADM CARROLL THAT GOE WISHES SHOULD BE RESPECTED.
MAESTRONE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 11 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
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